

## SPECIAL MEETING- MANSFIELD TOWN COUNCIL

April 16, 2007

Deputy Mayor Gregory Haddad called the special meeting of the Mansfield Town Council to order at 6:30 p.m. in Room C of the Audrey P. Beck Building.

I. ROLL CALL

Present: Blair, Clouette, Haddad, Hawkins, Koehn, Paulhus, Schaefer

II. OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL

No comments

III. NEW BUSINESS

## 1. Revenues (Sec. D, Page35)

Jeff Smith, Director of Finance, updated the Council on his efforts to understand the grant formulas. He has a meeting planned with State

Representative Denise Merrill to discuss the process and the unintended consequences of some of the legislation. Mr. Smith has also hired a consultant to look at the assessed value of the prison.

## 2. Public-Safety (Sec. F, Page 91)

Sgt. Sean Cox commented that the proposed added trooper would allow in Town coverage after 11 p.m. Currently calls that come in at that time are forwarded to the Tolland barracks and are answered by a trooper who is responsible for a number of towns.

Mr. Hawkins requested that in the FY 2007/08 Major Initiatives section (Page 93) the words “ a public safety success” be toned down to reflect what the town is attempting to do. (FLAG)

John Jackman, Fire Marshal, noted that the Assistant Fire Marshal’s position should be counted as a .45 position (Page 97)(FLAG). It was also noted that on Page 96 “severe” should read, “serve.” Chief Dagon pointed out that the \$1500 that is not listed in Item 531 of the Fire Marshal’s budget should be added to Item 517 of the Fire & Emergency Administration. (FLAG)

Ms. Koehn requested a breakdown of Item 522 of the Fire & Emergency Services budget and of Item 539 of the Fire & Emergency Services Administration. She also asked for an accounting of how the pension program for the volunteers works actuarially.

Chief Dagon noted that there are some changes to the Employee counts on Page 101. He will give these changes directly to Maria Capriola, Assistant to the Town Manager. (FLAG)

## 3. Town-Wide (Sec H, Page 155)

The Town Manager will let the Council know what impact the settlement of the final contract for the year will have on the Contingency Fund (Page 161) (FLAG)

#### 4. Operating Transfers Out (Sec I. Page 163)

Mr. Smith pointed out that the subsidy for the Teen Center and Bicentennial Pond are budgeted in the CNR fund. The Council then discussed the proper funding source and explanation for the proposed subsidies for the Community Center. Mr. Haddad noted that in future budgets the Teen Center and the Pond should be budgeted in the General Fund. While Ms. Koehn commented that she thinks that the Council should take a position, in the form of a vote that expresses the change in the amount of public support for the Community Center. Mr. Hawkins and Mr. Clouette felt that the policy itself might not have to be changed but that there was a representation to the voters that the Center would be self-supporting and this change will need to be explained to the public. A discussion ensued regarding how best to explain the change. Mr. Hawkins suggested that a listing of community activities and staff space be compiled and Mr. Haddad reminded members the taxpayers are still paying the debt service for the Center. All members were in agreement that a public conversation needs to take place. Matthew Hart, Town Manager, will work on statement. (FLAG)

#### 5. Debt Services (Sec Q, Page 195)

The Mansfield Middle School heating system and open space are included  
in the amounts. Anticipated school renovations are not included.

#### 6. Internal Service Funds (Sec S, Page 215, Sec. T Page 217 and Sec U, Page 219)

Mr. Smith announced his intentions to set up an energy fund. Matt Hart noted that the balance for the health insurance should be increased and that employees in the Town are paying more for their health coverage.

#### IV. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Hawkins moved and Ms. Blair seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 p.m.

Motion passed unanimously.

Gregory Haddad, Deputy Mayor

Mary Stanton, Town Clerk